

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**EDWARD E. McNALLY
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

For Immediate Release

FEBRUARY 13, 2006

POMONA MEN INDICTED ON METHAMPHETAMINE CONSPIRACY

Edward E. McNally, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on January 19, 2006, **MONTE S. GEARHART**, age 36, and **JOHN A. BONE**, age 37, both of Pomona, Illinois, were indicted by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in Benton, Illinois, in a one-count indictment, charging them with conspiracy to manufacture 50 grams or more of methamphetamine. **BONE** and **GEARHART** were arrested on the indictment on January 20, 2006, and February 10, 2006, respectively. The violation took place between March 2004, and December 28, 2005, in Jackson and Union Counties, Illinois.

An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

The offense carries a penalty of between 5 and 40 years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$2,000,000, and a term of 4 years supervised release.

The investigation was conducted by the Jackson County Sheriff's Office, Murphysboro Police Department, Union County Sheriff's Office, Anna Police Department, Southern Illinois Enforcement Group, and Drug Enforcement Administration pursuant to their participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative.

The case was assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson for prosecution.